

**National EPA-Tribal Science Council (TSC)
Conference Call Roll Call and Key Discussion Points
Monday, November 19, 2018
2:00 – 3:30 p.m. EST**

Roll Call

Tribal Caucus

- ✓ Region 1: William (Billy) Longfellow
(Passamaquoddy at Sipayik)
- ___ Region 1 *Alternate*: Trevor White
(Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indian Township)
- ___ Region 2: Neil Patterson (Tuscarora Nation)
- ___ Region 4: Katie Tiger (Eastern Band of
Cherokee Indians)
- ___ Region 5: Jeffrey Mears (Oneida Nation), Chair
- ✓ Region 6: Rick DuBois (Seneca-Cayuga
Nation), Vice Chair
- ___ Region 6 *Alternate*: Rebecca Bond (Kickapoo
Tribe of Oklahoma)
- ___ Region 7: Page Hingst (Santee Sioux Nation of
Nebraska)
- ___ Region 7 *Alternate*: Misha Mazurkewycz (Ponca
Tribe of Nebraska)
- ✓ Region 8: Joshua Tweeton (Spirit Lake Tribe)
- ✓ Region 8 *Alternate*: Allyson Two Bears
(Standing Rock Sioux Tribe)
- ✓ Region 9: Carlotta (Carley) Whitecrane (Karuk
Tribe)
- ___ Region 9 *Alternate*: TBD
- ___ Region 10: Lee Juan Tyler (Shoshone-Bannock
Tribes)
- ✓ Region 10 *Alternate*: Kelly Wright (Shoshone-
Bannock Tribes)
- ✓ Region 10 (Alaska): Orville Huntington
(Tanana Chiefs Conference)

Support Personnel

- ✓ Monica Rodia, TSC Executive Secretary
- ✓ Jonathan Farrell, Contract Support
- ✓ Rachel Pisarski, Contract Support

EPA Caucus

- ___ Region 1: Robert Hillger
- ✓ Region 2: Kai Tang
- ___ Region 3: Regina Poeske
- ___ Region 4: Dawn Taylor
- ✓ Region 5: Luke Hullinger
- ___ Region 5 *Alternate*: Carole Braverman
- ✓ Region 6: Alexandra (Alexa) Olson
- ✓ Region 7: Amy Shields
- ✓ Region 7 *Alternate*: Amber Tilley
- ___ Region 8: Alfred Basile
- ___ Region 9: Destinee Cooper
- ✓ Region 10: Lon Kissinger
- ___ AIEO: Francine St. Denis
- ✓ OAR: Amanda Kaufman
- ___ OCHP: Ted Coopwood
- ✓ OCSP: Karen Hamernik
- ___ OCSP *Alternate*: Amanda Hauff
- ___ OEI: Beth Jackson
- ___ OLEM: David Charters
- ✓ ORD: David Jewett
- ✓ ORD: José Zambrana, Chair
- ___ OW: Karen Gude

Invited Speakers/Guests

- ✓ Hannah Birgé, The Nature Conservancy in
Nebraska
- ✓ James Rattling Leaf, Great Plains Tribal Water
Alliance
- ✓ Darcy Peter, Tanana Chiefs Conference
- ✓ Crystal Stiles, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Action Items

1. TSC members who are renting cars for the face-to-face meeting will contact Monica Rodia and provide their arrival times so that she can coordinate ride-sharing from the airport to the meeting hotel.

Key Discussion Points

Roll Call and Distribution of Final Meeting Minutes

- Monica took the roll of teleconference participants and announced that the October 2018 monthly TSC call notes had been finalized and distributed to the members.

Caucus Report Outs

- José Zambrana reported that the EPA Caucus had recently met and discussed the upcoming face-to-face meeting. The group also discussed the status of the updated Strategic Research Action Plans; the EPA-Tribal Partnership Groups will publicize the upcoming tribal consultations about the plans. José and Monica are examining the planned projects and products to determine the best way to meet tribal science needs. They also are identifying how to increase collaboration between Office of Research and Development scientists and tribes to develop the most beneficial collaborative research projects.
- Rick DuBois reported that the Tribal Caucus had not met since the previous TSC monthly teleconference. He explained that he is part of an E-Enterprise Leadership Council workgroup tasked with developing a process for identifying and addressing emerging contaminants. The scope recently was broadened to include emerging threats beyond chemical contaminants. The TSC has been invited to participate on the workgroup; Rick can provide an overview of the effort during the upcoming face-to-face meeting to determine whether and how the TSC can participate. José added that his supervisor could be invited to provide additional input during the face-to-face meeting. Orville Huntington would like to participate on the workgroup.

TSC Science Seminar: Co-Producing Climate Summaries With Tribal Communities to Enhance Monitoring and Support Decision Making on Tribal Lands, Crystal Stiles, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

- The six Regional Climate Centers (RCCs) in the United States are contracted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to work with stakeholders and partners to learn about their climate information and data needs. The High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC) was established at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln in 1987 and covers six states. HPRCC also works outside of its borders and focuses on agricultural and water resource issues. Other RCCs focus on other issues relevant to them (e.g., fires, hurricanes). All RCCs produce tools and products that help stakeholders and partners to use collected climate data.
- Although not required through the contract with NOAA, the HPRCC engages with tribes through climate data training workshops, climate survey development and youth outreach.
- The HPRCC has been working with the Great Plains Tribal Water Alliance (GPTWA) on its Climate Resilience Project, which includes a vulnerability assessment of drought on reservations, examination of climate issues, and determination of how to use climate information for decision making. The alliance includes four tribes: Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Oglala Sioux Tribe and Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe. Primary partners for the project include NOAA's National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS), the National Drought Mitigation Center, South Dakota State University and Louis Berger (an engineering consulting firm).

- To help support the GPTWA's project, the HPRCC was responsible for providing workshops on climate information. The first climate data training workshop introduced climate and drought concepts and put the concepts into context for the Great Plains area. Participants were given hands-on training on how to use and interpret climate data and obtained feedback from climatologists. Each participant received a training booklet to take home, as well as a climate summary—a concise, nontechnical summary of recent climate conditions with information about climate outlooks—specific for each tribe. The second climate summary workshop allowed the tribes to refine their climate summaries and provided information about where to find climate data for the summaries. Additional hands-on training and feedback from climatologists were provided, as was another take-home training booklet.
- The HPRCC's first co-produced climate summary was released in December 2017, with the goal of transitioning production of future climate summaries to each tribe. Conference calls were held with each Tribal Technical Team, and the HPRCC guided the teams in selecting sections to include in the co-produced summary. The teams contributed to drought summaries, provided information on traditional plant remedies, and conducted winter counts.
- The HPRCC also helped tribes to develop an online "Decision Dashboard," which acts as a decision-support tool, is a supplement to the climate summaries, and allows more real-time monitoring of climate and drought conditions. TSC members can view one of the Decision Dashboards at hprcc.unl.edu/rosebud.php.
- The next steps are to continue to publicize this work and expand training workshops and climate summary work to reach additional interested tribes. The HPRCC currently is focusing on engaging tribes in the Midwest in conjunction with NIDIS to help them prepare for drought.
- TSC members interested in learning more can contact Crystal Styles at cstyles3@unl.edu or (402) 202-3320.
- Orville commented that this work is very valuable given all of the climate change effects that his region has been experiencing.
- David Jewett asked how the NOAA RCCs relate to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Climate Adaptation Science Centers. Crystal responded that the USGS centers are newer and perform regional research on climate adaptation. NOAA's RCCs are data-centric and focus on making data more usable for stakeholders and partners.
- Monica asked about youth outreach. Crystal replied that the HPRCC performed youth outreach a few years ago at the request of the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska and Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, in conjunction with Earth Day celebrations and a Nature Science Night. The HPRCC brought a mobile weather station, provided instrumentation training and answered the youths' questions.
- José asked about additional training opportunities for tribes. Crystal explained that the HPRCC had received funding to perform the previous trainings, including travel funding. Haskell Indian Nations University supported a training at that university, as well. HPRCC is exploring funding to support additional training.

Winter 2018 Face-to-Face Meeting

- Monica asked those who are renting cars to contact her and provide their arrival times so that she can coordinate ride-sharing from the airport to the meeting hotel.

- José provided an overview of the latest face-to-face meeting agenda, which was attached to the meeting invitation that the TSC members received.

Announcements

- The Newsletter Team teleconference scheduled for November 20 will be postponed until after the face-to-face meeting. The Newsletter Team has met twice and participated in useful brainstorming sessions.
- Orville would like the TSC to participate in upcoming meetings in Alaska that address climate change and tribal conservation resources.

Next TSC Teleconference

- The date of the January TSC teleconference will be determined due to the federal holiday on January 21, 2019.